

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CHAD

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The mineral industry of Chad was dominated by small scale clay, gravel, natron (soda ash), salt, and sand production, complemented by artisanal recovery of diamond and gold. Mining did not play a significant role in the Republic of Chad's economy. The Government was actively encouraging foreign investment, but the nation's landlocked geography, political risk, lack of suitable infrastructure and process water apparently were impediments to international companies. Mining legislation in Chad was based on the Code Minier of June 20, 1995.

Chad's Direction de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (DRGM) funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) had identified tin, tungsten, and uranium mineralization in the Tibesti massif in the northwestern part of the country during the 1980's. In the southwest, the UNDP/DRGM had studied the bauxite deposit at Koro de Lai, an estimated 7 million metric tons grading 57%  $Al_2O_3$ , and the gold mineralization in the Mayo Kebbi greenstone belts. Diatomite, dolomite, granite, kaolin, limestone, and marble deposits were also reported (Mining Journal (London), 1995).

Chad had no significant hydrocarbon production. However, Esso Exploration and Production Chad Inc. (40%) was the operator of a joint venture, with Shell Tchadienne de Recherches et d'Exploration (40%) and Elf Hydrocarbures Tchad (20%), that proposed to drill approximately 300 wells to develop the Doba Basin, 350 kilometers south of N'Djamena.

Much of the nation's commerce relied heavily on roadways, although some mineral trade moved via the Logone River. Esso was planning the construction of a 76-centimeter-diameter pipeline from Chad to an export terminal south of Kribi,

Cameroon.

Traditional fuels such as wood were still heavily utilized in Chad. All electrical power was produced by diesel generators utilizing imported fuel. Total installed electric generating capacity, managed by Société Tchadienne d'Energie Electrique, amounted to 38 megawatts. Only the major cities of N'Djamena, Moundou, and Abéché possessed electric power, and they were not interconnected. The communications network infrastructure was embryonic.

## Reference Cited

Mining Journal (London), 1995, Chad—Discovering new mineral wealth: Mining Journal Country Supplement, v. 325, no. 8345, September 22, 12 pp.

## Major Sources of Information

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